



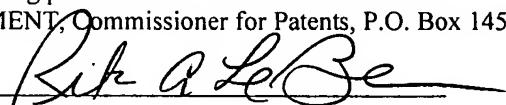
DOCKET NO.: D0188.70170US02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Field et al.
Serial No.: 10/737197
Confirmation No.: 5833
Filed: December 16, 2003
For: SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD
OF USE
Examiner: Not yet assigned
Art Unit: 3739

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 6 day of July, 2005.


Signature

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the following documents:

- Information Disclosure Statement;
- PTO Form 1449 with cited foreign references and article;
- Return Receipt Postcard

If the enclosed papers are considered incomplete, the Mail Room and/or the Application Branch is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (617) 646-8000, Boston, Massachusetts.

A check is not enclosed. If a fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Walt Norfleet, Reg. No.: 52,078
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206
Telephone: (617) 646-8000

Date: July 6, 2005
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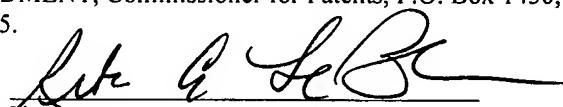
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT FILED PURSUANT TO THE DUTY OF
DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 CFR §§1.56, 1.97 AND 1.98

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

PART I: Compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement has been filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified case. No fee or certification is required.

PART II: Information Cited

The Applicant hereby makes of record in the above-identified application the information listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified). The order of presentation of the references should not be construed as an indication of the importance of the references.

The Applicant hereby makes the following additional information of record in the above-identified application.

The above-identified U.S. application claims priority to U. S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/039601 now U.S. Patent No. 6,663,643.

The Applicant would like to bring to the Examiner's attention the following co-pending applications that may contain subject matter related to this application:

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Publication No.</u>
10/014991	12/11/01	US-2002-0128666-A1
10/051322	01/18/02	n/a
10/141692	05/07/02	US-2003-0028202-A1
10/202530	07/23/02	US-2003-0105475 -A1
10/243556	09/13/02	US-2003-0105476-A1
10/352600	01/28/03	US-2003-0114863-A1
10/378805	03/04/03	US-2003-0171761-A1
10/396927	03/25/03	US-2004-0087979-A1
10/441652	05/19/03	US-2004-0092967-A1
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10/764837	01/26/04	US-2004-0158267-A1
10/848512	05/18/04	n/a
10/897975	07/23/04	US-2005-0043747-A1
10/919792	08/17/04	US-2005-0085832-A1

The Applicant would like to bring to the Examiner's attention the enclosed copy of the International Search Report from Patent Cooperation Treaty Application No. PCT/US01/50961, dated November 5, 2002 which corresponds to Parent U. S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/039601 now U.S. Patent No. 6,663,643.

PART III: Explanation of Non-English Language References and Remarks Concerning Other Information Cited

The following is a concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified):

Where English language translations of the non-English language references have been provided, the translation is believed to show the relevance of the reference. Where no English language translation is available, but an English language abstract has been provided, the English language abstract is believed to explain the relevance to the extent known by Applicants. Where no English language abstract is available, the drawings are believed to show the relevance.

The following are remarks concerning the other information cited.

PART IV: Remarks

Documents cited anywhere in the Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed unless otherwise indicated. It is respectfully requested that:

1. The Examiner consider completely the cited information, along with any other information, in reaching a determination concerning the patentability of the present claims;
2. The enclosed form PTO-1449 be signed by the Examiner to evidence that the cited information has been fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application;
3. The citations for the information be printed on any patent which issues from this application.

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By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that a search has been performed, of the extent of any search performed, or that more relevant information does not exist.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, in fact, prior art as defined by 35 U.S.C. §102.

Notwithstanding any statements by the Applicant, the Examiner is urged to form his own conclusion regarding the relevance of the cited information.

An early and favorable action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Walt Norfleet, Reg. No. 52,078
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206
Telephone: (617) 646-8000

Docket No.: D0188.70170US02

Date: July 6, 2005

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FORM PTO-1449A and B (Modified)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

				APPLICATION NO.: 10/737197	ATTY. DOCKET NO.: D0188.70170US02
				FILING DATE: December 16, 2003	CONFIRMATION NO.: 5833
				APPLICANT: Field et al.	
				GROUP ART UNIT: 3739	EXAMINER: Not yet assigned

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication or of issue of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
		Number	Kind Code		
		919,138		DRAKE	4/20/1909
		1,449,087		BUGBEE	3/20/1923
		2,579,192		KOHL	12/18/1951
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		2,897,820		TAUBER	10/23/1956
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		4,553,543		Amarasinghe	11/19/1985
		4,557,265		Andersson	12/10/1985
		4,583,541		Barry	4/22/1986
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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APPLICATION NO.:	10/737197	ATTY. DOCKET NO.:	D0188.70170US02
FILING DATE:	December 16, 2003	CONFIRMATION NO.:	5833
APPLICANT:	Field et al.		
GROUP ART UNIT:	3739	EXAMINER:	Not yet assigned

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Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication or of issue of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
		Number	Kind Code		
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		4,612,933		Brinkerhoff, et al.	9/23/1986
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		4,915,107		Rebuffat, et al.	4/10/1990
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FORM PTO-1449/A and B (Modified) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				APPLICATION NO.: 10/737197	ATTY. DOCKET NO.: D0188.70170US02		
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		Number	Kind Code		
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		5,304,183		Gourlay, et al.	4/19/1994
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FORM PTO-1449/A and B (Modified) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				APPLICATION NO.: 10/737197	ATTY. DOCKET NO.: D0188.70170US02
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		Number	Kind Code		
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		5,618,306		Roth, et al.	4/8/1997
		5,665,096		Yoon	9/9/1997
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		APPLICANT: Field et al.	
		GROUP ART UNIT: 3739	EXAMINER: Not yet assigned
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

OTHER ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

OTHER ART. / NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS			
Examiner's Initials	Cite No	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS) title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, relevant page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation (Y/N)
		"VCS Clip Applier System," Auto Suture Company, A Division of United States Surgical Corporation ("USSC"), ©1995	
EXAMINER:	DATE CONSIDERED:		

#EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

*a copy of this reference is not provided as it was previously cited by or submitted to the office in a prior application, Serial No. ___, filed ___, and relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 (continuation, continuation-in-part, and divisional applications).

[NOTE - The Office hereby waives the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 USC 371 after June 30, 2003. See 37 CFR 1.491(b). For all patent applications filed on or before June 30, 2003, copies of cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are still required unless an eIDS is filed. Copies of all other patent(s), publication(s), or other information listed must still be provided, even if it was previously submitted to, or cited by, the U.S. Patent Office in an earlier application, unless the earlier application is identified by the IDS and is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120, and the copy was provided in the earlier application.]